**Director of
Central
Intelligence**

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National Intelligence Daily

*Saturday
17 April 1982*

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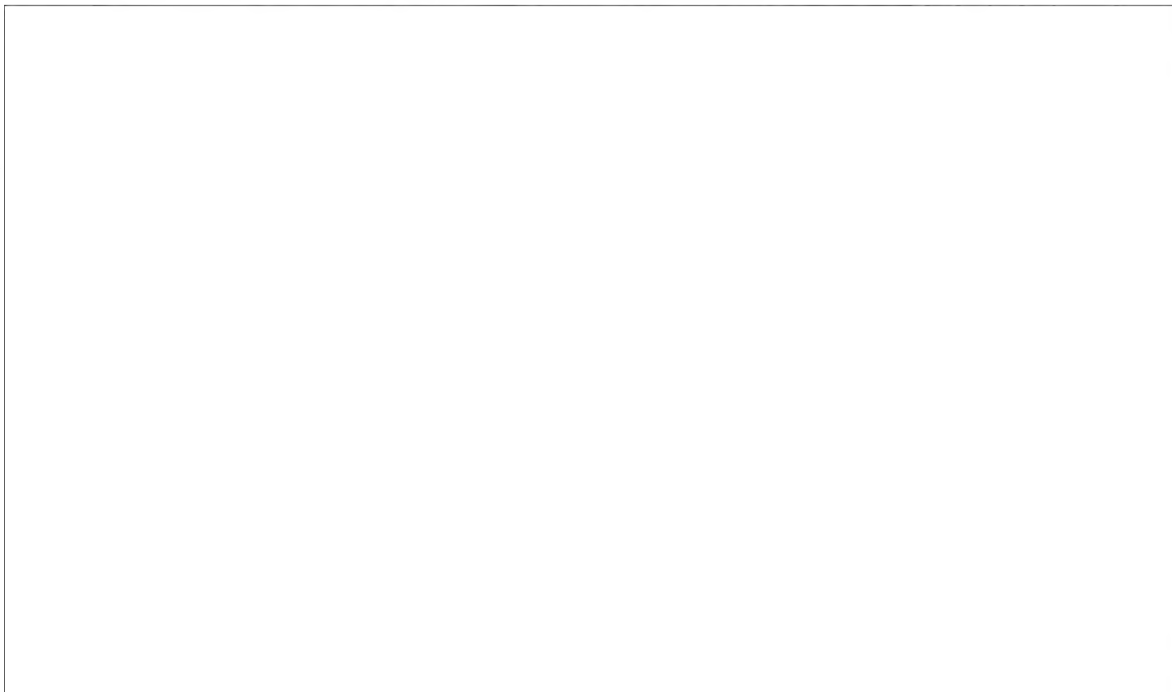
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② ISRAEL-LEBANON-SYRIA: Status of Forces

New evidence shows that the Israeli buildup in northern Israel is somewhat larger than previously estimated, but the alert status of Israeli forces seems to have decreased.

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DIA

The introduc-
tion of additional armored, infantry, and artillery units
since the buildup began almost two weeks ago
gives the Israelis a total force
strength of 25,000 to 27,000 in the north. Most of these
units came from southern Israel.

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DIA

Prime Minister Begin reiterated to US officials yes-
terday that Israel would continue to exercise restraint.
He warned, however, that any resumption of shelling of
northern Israel and shedding of Israeli blood would result
in retaliation.

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Comment: Israeli forces in northern Israel now are
larger by several thousand troops than those involved in
the operation in March 1978 that extended to the Litani
River. The size of the current buildup suggests that
this time Israel's military planners are considering an
invasion of southern Lebanon to the Zahrani River and
possibly beyond. It probably also reflects increased
Israeli concern over Syria's intentions and the need to
have adequate forces on the Golan to defend against a
possible Syrian attack.

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